

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-32 are pending in this application. Claim 15 has been amended to change its dependency.

In response to the restriction requirement, the Applicant elects Group I without traverse, corresponding to claims 1, 2 and 4-15. Consequently, claims 16-32 are withdrawn from consideration. Applicant will take appropriate action to cancel the withdrawn claims before allowance.

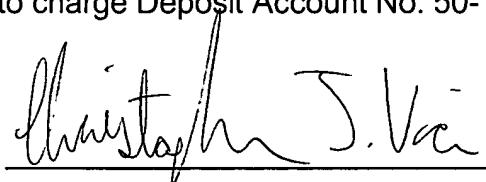
A species restriction requirement was also made. Six species were identified corresponding to Figures 3 to 8, respectively. Applicant elects the species corresponding to Figure 4. The Examiner noted that claim 1 was generic. Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 2, 4-8 and 15 (as amended) are also generic because each claim relates to features that may be combined with all of the species disclosed in the Figures. Moreover, claims 9-12 correspond to the elected species. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that claims 1, 2-12 and 15 be examined on the merits. Claims 13 and 14 have been withdrawn from consideration. As above, Applicant will take appropriate action to cancel the withdrawn claims before allowance.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests that the Examiner pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience. Should the Examiner have any question or wish to further discuss this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (319) 594-2200.

If for some reason Applicant has not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent the abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period and/or authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1097 for any fee which may be due.

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Christopher J. Voci
Registration No. 45,184
Dobrusin & Thennisch PC
29 W. Lawrence Street, Suite 210
Pontiac, MI 48342
319-594-2200
cvoici@patentco.com
Customer No. 25,215